

EAST RETFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1914

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EAST RETFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my tenth Annual Report, for the year 1914.

Population.—The estimated population at the middle of the year was 15,108, showing an increase of 27. The birth-rate for the year is 20·05, an increase of 1·22 per thousand.

Births.—The total number of births was 303. One of these births occurred outside the District, but belonged to a resident of the District. Table A shows the details of the births as to sex and locality.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered in the District was 179, giving a crude death-rate of 11·84. In addition to these, 19 persons belonging to the District died in Institutions outside and must be included, and 5 died in an Institution within the District, but belonging to another District have been excluded. Thus the net number of deaths of residents belonging to the District is 193, giving a corrected net death-rate of 12·84. This is an increase of 1·39 per 1,000 over last year. A still further correction can be made by means of a factor provided by the Registrar General, which estimates what the death-rate would actually be were the population of the District as regards sex and age the same as the average for the whole Kingdom. By the use of this, what is known as the “standard death-rate” is found to be **10·72** per 1,000.

The public Institutions outside the District in which residents have died are as follows:—

The Retford Hospital.
 The East Retford Union Workhouse.
 The Sheffield Royal Infirmary.
 The Notts. County Asylum.
 The Doncaster Infirmary.

The Institution within the District in which deaths have occurred but have been transferred elsewhere is the Rampton Asylum.

The Union Workhouse is not in the District, being situated within the Borough of East Retford.

Infantile Mortality.—The number of deaths of infants under one year of age is 25, 10 more than last year, giving a death-rate per 1,000 net births of 82·5.

The Early Notification of Births Act has not been adopted in the District. It is somewhat questionable whether the adoption of this Act in such a widely scattered rural area would be of much material service and is a question which requires very careful consideration before any decision in the matter is come to.

Of the total infantile deaths, four occurred amongst illegitimate infants.

Three deaths occurred in persons over 90, the oldest being 96.

The deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis numbered 13. Other tuberculous conditions, one. This shows a considerable decrease from the deaths from this disease which occurred last year.

Cancer (Malignant Disease) accounted for 16 deaths, being six more than the previous year.

Bronchitis was given as the cause of death in 18 cases, and it is noticeable that as usual these deaths occurred at the extremes of life, five being under 2 years of age and eleven amongst persons of 65 and upwards.

There were six deaths from violence and one suicide.

There were three deaths from Measles, one occurring in a person over 65, one death from Scarlet Fever, and two from Influenza.

A tabular statement as to age, incidence, etc., will be found on page 35.

TABLE A.

Registration Sub-Districts.	Legitimate Births.		Illegitimate Births		Total.
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Gringley ...	29	30	1	3	63
Clarborough ...	37	36	3	3	79
East Retford...	28	25	...	1	54
Tuxford ...	36	35	2	4	77
Misson ...	12	14	2	1	29
Totals ...	142	140	8	12	302
Add Births out- side but belong- ing to District				1	1
Totals ...	142	140	8	13	303

General Description.—The District is purely rural in nature. It is situated in the northern part of the County of Nottingham. Roughly it is lozenge-shaped, having its greatest length of 26 miles from north to south, and its greatest breadth of 11 miles from east to west. Physically, the District may be described as undulating, with a main ridge of hills running down the middle in the direction north to south. It is drained on the west of these by the river Idle, and on the east by the river Trent. There are numerous villages and farmhouses scattered about the District, and also a few larger houses in their own estates.

The population is almost entirely dependent upon agriculture for its maintenance. In the near future, it is probable that there will be an increase both in houses and population owing to the development of coal mines either in the District or just over the border. This, however, is likely to remain in abeyance owing to the war. The pit sinking operations at Harworth have ceased for the present owing to this cause.

The municipal borough of East Retford is situated almost exactly in the centre of the District.

Geology.—The District is situated on the edge of what is apparently a large geological basin, whose centre is situated somewhere away to the east, and as one travels westward the successive geological strata show themselves at the surface in areas running nearly parallel, and in a direction from north to south. These strata shelve away downwards to the east, being covered in succession by the more recent deposits. Thus from west to east we have pebble beds or conglomerate, superposed upon sandstone, extending over almost the entire District from north to south, and as far east roughly as the river Idle; this is succeeded to the north and east of the town of Retford by waterstones, and then succeed the keuper marls, which are mixed in places with beds of sandstone, and through

which run beds of gypsum. This latter has a very marked effect upon the water in the shallow wells of the eastern portion of the District, giving it a very hard character. There is a bed of alluvial deposit along the course of the river beds of the Idle and Trent.

Meteorology.—The year 1914 was remarkable for the shortage of rain in the early months, and for the fact that there were periods of absolute drought occurring in April, May, June, August and September. The autumn was noticeably very dry, so much so that in many of the districts, especially on the clay land, ploughing was delayed. There was also much trouble with the root crops. The last three months of the year were decidedly wet, and during these months the total rainfall for the year was very nearly made up to the average. There were no very severe frosts, but two night frosts occurred in May, on the 2nd and 26th, and did much damage to the fruit crop and set back the newly budding trees. The total rainfall was 24·5 inches.

Rivers and Streams.—As previously mentioned, the two rivers of the District are the Idle and the Trent. The Idle is polluted to a certain extent by the Borough of East Retford. The Trent, before passing through this District, has passed, notably, the towns of Newark and Nottingham, and is certainly somewhat polluted.

Sewage.—This being a Rural District, there is no general sewage disposal service. Most of the villages have a system of drains to carry off local sewage, and in several localities there are sewage tanks.

The bulk of the excrement disposal is by means of midden privies. There has been a lot of work done during the past few years with regard to these in that they have been rebuilt, put further away from houses, in more convenient places, and made more accessible to empty and to clean. This system of midden

privies is by no means ideal and has several disadvantages, the most notable being the possibility of the infection of flies by infected excreta, and the transmission of disease by these small agents to the houses. It is difficult, however, to see what better system can be devised for a rural area, especially where there is no general water supply. The disadvantages of the system are not so great as in a town. The provision of pails generally would be distinctly disadvantageous, because it is found that unless they can be emptied regularly by the Council's own workmen, or by a contractor, the offence becomes far greater than in a privy, owing to overflow. The pail system is in use to a large extent in the village of Tuxford, where they are emptied regularly under contract. Most of the larger houses have water closets and cesspools. In Barnby Moor there are about 30 water closets, the drains from which are taken to a sewage tank and the effluent passed on into a dyke. This effluent and the water in the dyke are found to be satisfactory.

The question of drainage in the District is very difficult. Many parts are flat and low lying and there is no proper fall; the rivers flow between artificial embankments, and are sometimes, especially when there is much sudden rainfall, at a higher level than the surrounding country.

In March, with a Committee and Clerk of the District Council, I attended a meeting of the ratepayers of Ranskill concerning the provision of a sewage farm and plant for the village. The matter was discussed fairly fully and plans and estimates from an engineer were shown. A subsequent meeting of the Parish Council decided that they did not want a sewage scheme, but of course this matter is entirely in the hands of the Sanitary Authority.

The Local Government Board are going to hold an enquiry as to the advisability or not of the scheme in the near future.

Full particulars of the laying down of drains and other matters in this connection will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Water Supply.—For the most part shallow wells are depended upon, but there are a few deep wells in various parts of the District. Good water is obtained west of the river Idle, where the soil is sandy, but on the eastern side it is very hard owing to the veins of gypsum, and the wells being dug in clay the water is often of a very suspicious quality being contaminated by surface water. In a few villages it is certainly not fit for drinking. In these cases rain water is relied upon. To provide a good water supply for these villages would necessitate very deep boring and commensurate expense. In a few cases, water from the Chesterfield Canal is used for drinking. This is decidedly dangerous, but fortunately the practice is not common and is resorted to only in times of drought. The few deep wells in the District are mostly on the property of large land owners. One of these supplies the whole of the neighbouring village. The Rampton Criminal Lunatic Asylum obtains its water from a deep well. Tuxford and East Markham obtain a good supply of water from the main pipe line of the Lincoln City Waterworks. One hamlet has access to the water supply of the Borough of East Retford.

On one premises I visited I found quite an insufficient water supply. The water was obtained from a shallow well which was said to be insufficient even in wet weather. When I was there, the weather had been very dry for some time, and the well was practically empty. Water for the animals was taken from a rather foul pool, and the drinking water was taken from the Chesterfield Canal. I advised that the well be deepened and that a properly covered iron tank be supplied for the storage of rain water. I shall have to report again on this case.

My attention was called to a house where the water was said to be bad. I found that the pump in the house was in disrepair, and water was being used from a pump over a well near the crew yard. The analysis of this water showed very great pollution by the excreta of animals. On communication to the owner of the house, the inside well was repaired, and the well that had been used for drinking was put in order and the nuisance remedied. This is the analyst's report:—

(Copy).

APPEARANCE.—Clear, bright, and well aerated. Minute deposit by subsidence after twelve hours.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.—Total dissolved solids, 81·2 grains per gallon, consisting of, approximately—

Chalk...	...	...	...	23·1 grains
Salt ...	...	...	...	11·5 „
Calcium Nitrate	...	...	...	14·2 „
Sulphates of Calcium and Magnesium				30·0 „
“ Free ” Ammonia	...	...	...	0·01 grains per gallon
“ Albuminoid ” Ammonia	...	...	...	0·015 „
Chlorine, combined as Chloride	...	...	...	7·0 „
Nitrogen, combined as Nitrate	...	...	...	2·37 „
Nitrogen, combined as Nitrite	...	...	...	Very minute trace

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION.—A few minute aggregates of non-motile bacteria, with some small but vigorous Protozoa (of the Lobosagenus) were detected. None of the large, more highly organised Protozoa were found.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.—

Incubation at 18°—22° C. for 72 hours on nutrient gelatine—
Number of colonies per cubic centimetre=700.

Incubation at Blood heat —37·5° C. for 72 hours on neutral-red bile agar.—

The number of colonies was so great that a count was impracticable.

Number of Bac. Coli. Com. per cubic centimetre=ONE.

REMARKS.—This water is polluted with intestinal excreta of animals or human beings and is unfit for human consumption in my opinion, although it is so remarkably clear.

The following are analyses of the water taken from a well at Tuxford :—

(Copy).

Report on samples of water taken under your supervision on the 19th inst. from (A) the tap over the sink in the scullery, in the House, Tuxford G.C.R. Station.

SAMPLE A, FROM THE TAP.

APPEARANCE.—Clear, bright, and well aerated. No odour. Minute deposit subsided after 24 hours.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION —Total dissolved solids 106·7 grains per gallon, containing :

Chalk...	...	...	...	...	11·5 grains
Common Salt	...	...	...	...	3·8 „

The remainder being chiefly Sulphates of Calcium and Magnesium.

“ Free ” Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0125 grains per gallon
“ Albuminoid ” Ammonia	...	...	...	0·019 „
Nitrogen, combined as Nitrate	...	...	...	None
Nitrogen, combined as Nitrite	...	...	...	None
Chlorine, combined as Chloride	...	...	...	2·3 „

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION.—Among the deposit which was chiefly vegetable debris, were found a few objectionable organisms, Paramoecia, whose natural habitat is stagnant surface water or subsoil into which such surface water drains.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.—

Incubation at 18° — 22° C. for 72 hours on nutrient gelatine—
Number of organisms per cubic centimetre = 3 (moulds).

Incubation at 37·5° C. for 72 hours on neutral-red bile agar—
Number of organisms per cubic centimetre = NONE.

REMARKS.—This water contains a high proportion of organic matter of vegetable origin and some objectionable organisms associated therewith, but it has not been polluted with liquid containing animal or human excreta. If boiled for thirty minutes, it would be safe, in my opinion, for human consumption.

(Copy).

Report on sample of water (B) from pump in garden at the Station Master's House, Tuxford Station, G.C.R., taken by you on 19th inst.

APPEARANCE OF SAMPLE.—When drawn from the pump, the water had the appearance of dirty rain water, washed from a sooty roof. It was turbid, with a brown-black murky colour, and was full of blackened fragments of vegetable tissues which were in suspension, and contained many animalculae visible to the naked eye. The water had a strong sulphurous odour.

After standing, the odour gradually disappeared and the murky colour faded until, after seven days the water was free from odour, except a faint earthy smell, and was quite clear and white in colour. It was evident that the black colour was due to iron sulphide, and that this and the gaseous sulphur compounds which gave the water its odour when fresh from the well, became oxidised gradually. After seven days, the copious sediment which at first was quite black, had changed completely to red-brown (iron hydroxide).

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.—Total dissolved solids 63·3 grains per gallon, containing—

Chalk...	...	...	...	...	13·6 grains
Common Salt	...	...	...	...	1·8 „

The remainder being chiefly Sulphates of Calcium and Magnesium.

“ Free ” Ammonia	...	...	...	0·004 grains per gallon
“ Albuminoid ” Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0084 „
Nitrogen, combined as Nitrate	...	...	...	None
Nitrogen, combined as Nitrite...	...	...	...	None
Chlorine, combined as Chloride	...	...	...	1·1 „

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION.—The deposit contained a large number of vigorous organisms of objectionable character, among which were AMOEBA, Radiosa, Paramoecium Aurelia, Acomia Vitrea, and other varieties of the Ciliata.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.—

Incubation for 72 hours at 18° — 22° C. on nutrient gelatine—

Number of colonies per cubic centimetre = 320 (moulds).

Incubation for 72 hours at 37·5° C. on neutral-red bile-agar.

Number of colonies per cubic centimetre = None.

B. Coli. Communis, None.

Other intestinal organisms, None.

REMARKS.—Though not polluted with animal or human excreta or sewage in the ordinary sense of that term, this water is heavily charged with the products of decomposition of vegetable matters and contains many organisms of types which are objectionable for human consumption.

The evil appearance and odour of the water are such as to lead any ordinary observer to conclude that a considerable proportion of the water is crude sewage, and although this is not the case, no man could be expected to drink the water as it comes from the pump at present.

The sulphurous odour is derived from gases formed probably by chemical action of the organic decomposition products upon the Sulphates of Lime, etc., contained in the subsoil from which this water is drawn.

It is probable that if this water be boiled for thirty minutes, it will become safe for human consumption, but none the less, its appearance, its odour, and the presence of large numbers of objectionable Protozoa are sufficient in my opinion, to condemn it as failing to comply with the requirements of the Public Health Act.

W. GATHORNE YOUNG, F.S.C.

Schools.—The water supply for the Schools is dependent entirely upon the character of the water supply of the villages in which they are situated. The Schools and scholars are inspected by the County Education Authority, but so far as the health of the scholars in regard to the spread of infectious disease is concerned, I usually visit the School or the scholars' homes on the occasion of any outbreak of which I may become aware.

Slaughter-houses.—These have been inspected, and on the whole are clean and regularly lime-washed.

Cowsheds.—The cowsheds of the District are inspected, and on the whole they are well kept and clean. Two were found to be dirty, one of these being also defective. Representations to the owners were made, and the conditions were amended. In April, I inspected farm buildings where the tenant had notified his intention of becoming a milk seller. I found that the cow sheds were very dirty and in great disrepair, and owing to this and the insufficient ventilation I advised that the milk should not be sold for consumption until necessary reforms were carried out. There was also no refrigerator provided although it was intended to send the milk by train. I met the builder and the District Surveyor, and a scheme was evolved by which suitable accommodation for twelve cows could be provided. I also inspected premises intended to be used as cow sheds by a farmer who had registered as a milk seller. Here again the premises were unsuitable as they stood, but a scheme was evolved making them suitable and was taken in hand.

This is not a dairy county, and there are comparatively few registered cow keepers. Of these, for the most part there are only two or three cows. In several cases, the milk is sent to the Trentside Dairy at South Leverton, where it is made into

cheese. Milk is sent to East Retford, Gainsborough and Doncaster for consumption.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—Inspections under this Act are carried out by the Officer of the County Council. His report of samples taken is as follows :—

Articles purchased by the Inspectors for Examination and Analysis			Examined by the Inspectors	Result.		Result of Analysis ; Showing whether the Sample was genuine or adulterated, and, if adulterated, what were the nature and extent of the adulteration	Results of the Proceedings, if any, taken in respect of Adulterated Samples
				Correct	Incorrect		
Butter	..	5	..	..	..	5 Genuine	Cautioned by Inspector
Beer	..	3	..	..	..	3 Genuine	
Cocoa	..	2	..	..	..	2 Genuine	
Gin	..	16	15	15	..	1 Adulterated— 4-5 added water	
Malt Vinegar		6	..	..	..	6 Genuine	
Pepper	..	5	..	..	..	5 Genuine	
Whisky	..	37	34	34	..	1 Genuine, 2 Adulterated— 32 parts added water 27 4 parts added water	Fined 10/6 & 7/6 costs
Pearl Barley		1	..	..	..	1 Genuine	Fined £2 & 7/6 costs
Rice	..	4	..	..	..	4 Genuine	
Totals..		79	49	49	..	27 Genuine, 3 Adulterated	

Informal
Milks 29
Total of all
Samples 108

NUMBER OF INFORMAL SAMPLES OF MILK TESTED BY THE INSPECTORS BY
" GERBER " TESTER.

						RESULT.	
						Correct.	Incorrect
Number of Samples taken by the Inspectors	..	—				—	—
„ submitted by Milk Retailers to the Inspectors		—				—	—
„ „ „ „ Producers „ „	29	28				1	
Totals	29	28				1	

Housing Accommodation.—The housing is sufficient for the needs of the District. There are a few cases where labourers have to travel some little distance to their work. Five new houses have been erected during the year. The Sanitary Inspector (who is the designated Officer under the Housing and Town Planning Act) and I have visited constantly and made inspections of houses throughout the District. Most of the defects found consisted of—

- Insufficient lighting
- Insufficient ventilation
- Defective eaves, gutters, etc.
- Leaking roofs
- Defective privies
- Defective ashpits
- Insufficient drains
- Dirty houses
- Damp houses
- Too close proximity to pigstyes and crewyards.

The table and report on page 52 sets out the result of the inspections, the Orders of the Council thereon, and the results obtained under this Act.

Four Closing Orders were advised during the year. In all these cases the houses were put into suitable and habitable condition and the orders were withdrawn.

With regard to the work under this Act, the Officers of the Council were instructed by the Sanitary Committee to recommend only sanitary work which was absolutely indispensable during the continuation of the war owing to the financial situation generally.

During a systematic inspection, it was found that two houses which had been closed under an Order had been reopened surreptitiously. Informal notice was sent and the houses were closed.

I have been informed that it is the intention of one landowner to pull down several undesirable cottages and build others in their place. I had already seen these, but hesitated to advise closure until others could be built. Systematic inspections are made of the District by the Sanitary Inspector and myself working separately and together. A detailed report of the Sanitary Inspector's work will be found below.

Overcrowding.—No cases have been found during the year.

The War.—In accordance with the suggestion of the Local Government Board, I offered my services to the Military Authorities of the Command in any sanitary matters where I might be useful in the District. There are no troops stationed at present in this District. A good many men have joined the Forces, and the farmers are complaining of the shortage of labour, especially amongst their best men. One case has been notified of a resident of the District who has died as a result of a wound received in action.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The plan followed when a case of infectious disease is notified to me, is, that I visit the house personally if possible, make enquiries, and give instructions as to isolation and disinfection. Hanging cards of instructions and disinfectants are distributed gratis. At the termination of the case the house is disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector and his staff.

When a child is infected, I usually visit the School to enquire after absentees and visit the suspicious cases who may be reported.

There is as yet no isolation hospital in the District. An arrangement has been made with the Council of the Borough of East Retford to admit a limited number of cases of scarlet

fever into their Hospital where the circumstances of the case make such a procedure unusually desirable and provided that there be room available. During the year, three cases have been so dealt with.

In my last Report I mentioned that owing to the lack of a horse ambulance this arrangement had not been utilised. During the year a very serviceable ambulance has been purchased.

Negotiations which have been in progress between this Council and the Council of the Borough of East Retford, have finally been terminated by an agreement for the provision of an isolation hospital by the Borough in which for a specified sum payable every year, the Rural District shall have the right to send in six cases at any one time. Should more than this number of cases be sent and space be available, a small sum would be charged per capita. The work of building will be put in hand shortly, and I hope in my next Report to be able to say that the Hospital is in a forward condition.

The following is a short account of the isolation hospital question as it has affected this District for the past few years.

Attention was called to the lack of an Isolation Hospital for this District by Dr. Housley in his Report for the year 1901. He there states that he is of opinion that it would be advantageous for the Rural District to join with the Borough of East Retford for a joint Hospital, as had recently been done at Worksop with the Blyth and Cuckney Rural District. In his report for 1902, he refers to this matter and shows that it is impossible to isolate early cases of infectious disease properly without a Hospital. After this except for attention being called each year to the absence of an Isolation Hospital, the matter seems to have dropped. An occasional letter was received from the Local Government Board, asking if anything was about to be done towards the provision of such a Hospital. The matter came up in a more

urgent form in the early part of 1911. Immediate cause was an epidemic of Scarlet Fever which occurred in the Villages of Ranskill, Torworth and Barnby Moor, during the months of November and December, 1910, and January and February, 1911. In January, 1911, the Managers of the Torworth Council School wrote to the Rural District Council, stating that in their opinion, there was urgent need for the provision of an Isolation Hospital. Three days after this the Sanitary Committee appointed a sub-committee to consider and report upon the question of providing an Isolation Hospital. The first idea of this Committee was that it would be possible to provide for the isolation of early cases of infectious disease, by obtaining houses, suitably situated, preferably one in the Northern part, and the other in the Southern part of the District, in which Caretakers could live and Nurses be accommodated, having sufficient space around them for the erection of temporary iron buildings for Wards, etc., when required. The Surveyor was instructed to write to Captain Cook, at that time resident in Barnby Moor, to see if his friends who were pressing for a Hospital, could help by offering houses. In March, 1911, the Ranskill Parish Council sent to the Rural District Council a copy of a Resolution passed at a meeting in favour of an Isolation Hospital being provided, and in Nov. the Local Government Board wrote to the District Council, urging the provision of an Isolation Hospital, jointly with the Borough of East Retford. On 7th November, 1911, the Rural District Council wrote to the Borough Council, asking for their views as to the provision of a joint Hospital for the two Authorities, to which the Borough Council replied, that the matter was not formally before them.

The danger to which the Rural District would be exposed, in the event of Small Pox being introduced by an infected tramp, or otherwise, was pointed out to the Sanitary Committee, and a Resolution was passed, giving the Chairman and the Medical Officer of Health power to isolate in any building in which such infected person happened to be, to provide Nurses, and to take all necessary steps for the isolation of such cases.

The Clerk to the Council was instructed to write to the Local Government Board, on the 16th December, 1911, to put this before them, and also to say, that, in the opinion of the sub-committee, it was the sub-committee's recommendation that two houses, with sufficient accommodation be taken, one in the North of the District, and the other in the South, to receive cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric, etc., and that a Horse Ambulance be provided. The Clerk was also instructed to prepare a Report dealing with the whole question. This Report was presented to the Rural District Council, on the 10th February, was approved by them, and the Sanitary Committee instructed to proceed with the necessary work on the lines of the Report. (This Report is appended hereto).

A suitable house was reported by the Medical Officer to be vacant at Sutton, and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Duke of Portland's Agent, with a view to renting it, but the latter replied that he could not let the House for an Isolation Hospital, in view of the local objections that had been raised to its being used for such a purpose.

On the 30th December, 1911, a meeting was held at the Office of the Borough Surveyor, between the Sanitary Committee of the Town Council and the Rural District Council Hospital sub-committee, at which the question of an Isolation Hospital was considered, but no agreement was arrived at. On the 6th January, 1912, the Borough Council wrote to the Rural District Council, requesting the latter to ascertain by Resolution whether the Council were in favour of a joint Isolation Hospital with the Town.

At their Meeting on the 10th February, it was unanimously resolved that the Rural District Council were not in favour of a joint Hospital with the Town Council, and this Resolution was communicated to the Town.

In March, the Local Government Board wrote to the Rural District Council, enquiring as to the position of affairs which letter was replied to. The sub-committee acting on their

instructions tried to obtain premises for an Isolation Hospital and ordered the Clerk to advertise for two suitable houses, one to the North of Retford and the other to the South. It was intended to maintain these as nucleus for isolating cases of infectious disease, and to install a proper Steam Disinfector in one of them. These advertisements appeared for three weeks in the local papers, but no reply was received.

Direct application was made to various property owners by the Clerk and the Medical Officer, and the Surveyor personally visited several land owners and viewed various sites, but without any result. Suitable sites were found but the owners objected to the erection of an Isolation Hospital. All those sites which could have been obtained easily, all presented serious disadvantages. The Local Government Board made fresh enquiries in June, 1912, and a reply was made in July, giving particulars of what was being done. A further letter was received from the Local Government Board, again enquiring as to whether a site had been determined upon or whether the Rural District Council proposed to re-open negotiations with the Town Council. To these the Rural District Council replied that negotiations for the site had fallen through, and that negotiations with the Borough Council had not been re-opened but that a suggestion had been made that arrangements might be made for Rural cases to be taken into the Town Hospital if one were provided.

On November 19th, 1912, the Hospital Accommodation Committee of the Borough met, and the Chairman reported that he had been to London and seen Dr. McEwen, the Local Government Board Inspector, who had visited the Borough in connection with the outbreak of Enteric Fever during the Summer, and that he had visited various Isolation Hospitals. He was requested at that meeting to draw up a scheme of accommodation for two Hospitals, one for the Borough only of 16 beds, and a second larger scheme to provide 26 beds in view of the possible joining in the scheme of the Rural District Council suitable administrating places being provided for both as well as the necessary outoffices and disinfector.

A conference of the Committees of the Borough Council and the District Council was held on the 19th April, 1913, and the question of a joint Isolation Hospital was fully considered and terms discussed. On the same day, the District Council wrote to the Local Government Board asking for a personal interview, but a reply was received that the interview asked for could not be arranged, and enquiry made as to the precise nature of the offer made to the District Council by the Borough Council.

On the following day, the District Council wrote to the Local Government Board that the proposed interview was for the purpose of asking the Board to allow the matter to remain in abeyance for a few years, having regard to the possible Colliery Development of the District.

To this the Local Government Board replied, urging the provision of an Isolation Hospital in conjunction with the Town Council without delay.

The Isolation Hospital sub-committee of the Rural District met the similar committee of the Borough on the 19th of April. Plans for a Hospital were produced and information was given to the Rural sub-committee, and it was there stated that it was proposed to submit the site and plans for the new Hospital to the Borough Council, if the Rural Council would agree to join the scheme.

The scheme at this time as proposed by the Borough, was to provide twelve beds in the Scarlet Fever Pavilion on the ordinary plan, with the Nurses' room in the centre. For other diseases, such as Typhoid Fever and Diphtheria, they had decided to adopt the Cubicle System, the Wards consisting of little rooms, 12 feet by 12 feet, divided by large sheets of plate glass.

It was proposed to build six of these Cubicles at first, but if extension were necessary, they could build another block of six at the other end, at the cost of £100 per bed. The administrating block would be large enough to serve for a Hospital of 20 or 30 beds. The total cost was estimated at £6,000. In addition to this there would be a Caretaker's Cottage.

The Rural District Sub-Committee made a report to the Council on the 3rd May, stating :

(1). That they had tried to obtain Houses for the proposed Hospital, but without success.

(2). That they had been in communication with the Borough Council as to joint Hospital.

(3). Setting out the terms discussed for joining with the Borough Council at their meeting of April 19th.

(Extracts from this Report accompany this.)

On the 27th May, 1913, representatives of the Rural District Council conferred with the Local Government Board in London. On the 31st May, the sub-committee met and settled terms that they would lay before the Town Council at the next Conference.

At the meeting of the Rural District Council, on the 31st May, the question of joining with the Borough Council was discussed. The Chairman reported the result of his interview with the Local Government Board in London, when he had explained the peculiar position of the District with regard to future Colliery Development. He had asked that until their position was evident, which would be determined during the next three years, that the District should not be pressed to do anything.

That they had a sum of £500 earmarked for the purpose of making an isolated area for Small Pox, and he proposed that the same sum might with advantage be used for the isolation of cases of Typhoid and Diphtheria. He had also pointed out that they had made provision for Nurses in certain cases, but this the Local Government said, by Article 67, they could not sanction until they had an Isolation Hospital. He further told them that they proposed to adopt Milnes' treatment in cases of Scarlet Fever, and he trusted the Local Government Board would be satisfied with their intention and under the circumstances would give further time to gather knowledge so as to work in the best interests of those they represented.

He informed the Council that the reply of the Local Government Board was that they could not sanction the employment of Nurses until they had an Isolation Hospital, so that they had to abandon the Milnes' treatment and that they went on to advise a meeting of a small committee of the Borough Council at once, to see if they could not come to working arrangements. That the Town Council's offer with regard to the £400 a year did not seem to appeal to them,

(See the notes appended to this)

but they were anxious that they should come to some terms and this they left entirely to their discretion. The Chairman further went on to say that he had mentioned that so much per head should be paid to the Borough for Patients treated in their Hospital, but that for this to be satisfactory to the Local Government Board, they would have to give an undertaking that all willing Patients should have the chance of going to the Hospital. He also asked if the Rural Council were to build an Isolation Hospital for themselves what would be required, and the answer was, one bed per thousand inhabitants or the usual thing, which would work out at 15 beds. They would also require a day and night Nurse for each different Fever treated at the same time in the Hospital.

The meeting closed by the Local Government Board Commissioners specially asking Mr. Walker to write to them after their June Meeting, giving them details how matters stood at that date.

Finally, after a good deal of discussion, in which it was pointed out that the Local Government Board were not anxious for an unnecessary expensive scheme and that they were willing to accept a joint Hospital for 20 beds instead of 30 beds, which would be required on the usual calculation of one per thousand inhabitants for the joint area.

A small committee was appointed to consider the matter and report at the next meeting.

The sub-committee thus appointed met on the same day and settled the terms that they would lay before the Town Council at the next Conference.

On the 7th June, the Committees of the Town Council and Rural District met in Conference and very fully discussed the terms upon which they might join in providing an Isolation Hospital. No agreement was reached, but the sub-committee of the Rural District said they would report the Borough Council's offer to the Rural District Council.

At a Meeting of the Rural District Council, specially convened for the purpose on the 14th June, the sub-committee reported fully their negotiations with the Borough Council and that the last offer of the Borough Council was as follows :—

(1) That for £400 a year, the Town Council would guarantee accommodation for six Rural Patients whatever disease they might have, free from every charge, except for Doctor and special Medical extras, and for cases beyond six, the Rural District Council should pay ten shillings a week each for maintenance, and also beyond six cases the Town Council would take Town and Country Patients without priority at any time. The Rural District Council must provide for their own Medical attendance.

(2) That the Town or Rural Medical Officer of Health would attend the cases at an agreed fee of, say, One guinea per case, the Patient to make the choice. Mr. Edwin Smith moved that the foregoing offer be accepted, subject to the following condition or modification, namely, that the Town Council's A/cs of the Hospital should be produced to the Rural District Council for three years and if such cost, including the sinking fund, should be less than £1,200 in any year, a proportion amounting to one third of the sum by which such costs should be less than £1,200 to be returned to the Rural District Council.

After a very lengthy discussion and counter proposals, the resolution, proposed by Mr. Smith, was carried by 19 votes to 13.

On the 16th June, the District Council wrote to the Borough Council, offering to combine with them on the terms of Mr. Smith's resolution.

The Local Government Board wrote again on the 18th enquiring the position. A reply was made on the 25th.

The Borough Council wrote to the District Council on the 29th August, that the Town Council could not accept the Rural District Council's proposal for joining in the provision of an Isolation Hospital.

At a meeting of the Borough Council, on the 27th June, the offer of the Rural Council was considered. After a heated discussion, the recommendation of the Borough Hospital Committee to accept the terms set forth, was rejected by one vote and the whole question was referred back for further consideration. The members of the Borough Hospital sub-committee immediately placed their resignations in the hands of the Borough Council.

On the 20th September, the Town Council wrote to the Rural Sanitary Committee, intimating that the request of the latter for the admission of early Cases into their Scarlet Fever Hospital, had been sanctioned at a fee of Two guineas per week each for maintenance and nursing. This offer was accepted by the Rural Sanitary Committee, and the Medical Officer of Health was instructed to take advantage of it when the necessity arose.

On the 5th November, the County Medical Officer had an interview with the Medical Officer of Health and stated that a letter had been received by the County Council from the Local Government Board, suggesting that as the Rural District Council of East Retford had not decided to build a Hospital for themselves and their negotiations with the Town had fallen through, the time had come when the County Council should appoint a joint Hospital area and authority for the provision of an Isolation Hospital for the Borough and the Rural District, pointing out further that before the Borough could be included, their assent must be obtained. He, Dr. Handford, had been instructed by the Health Committee of the County Council to investigate the question and to make a report to them on the matter.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of cases notified was 53, being 13 less than the previous year. Amongst these are included 16 cases of Tuberculosis. The cases notified are given month by month in the following Table :—

TABLE B.

Month	Diph- theria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Acute Pol- iomyelitis	Total
Jan.		4	1				5
Feb.			1				1
March		1					1
April	1		1				2
May	1	1					2
June			14	3			17
July	3	1	3		2		9
August	3		6				9
Sept.	1		1			1	3
October	1		1				2
Nov.							
Dec.			2				2
Totals	10	7	30	3	2	1	53

The cases notified in each of the registration sub-districts are given in Table II. on page 34.

Diphtheria.—Ten cases were notified. Of these five occurred in one household, the disease spreading slowly from one member to the other, from April to October. This shows the difficulty of completely getting rid of the infection in this disease. In this case I found that the water supply was very bad. The analysis will be found on page 10. On my

representation the water was supplied from the Lincoln mains to this house.

Erysipelas.—Seven cases, all mild.

Scarlet Fever.—Thirty cases were notified. Of these seven cases occurred in a house in Lound. They were all mild. Three cases occurred in a house in Sutton, and were removed for isolation to the Retford Isolation Hospital. One case occurring at Gringley was removed to Misterton Hospital at their own request. One case of Scarlet Fever occurring at Claborough died. No other cases arose out of this one, which was well isolated at home.

Enteric Fever.—Three cases occurred, all at Laneham. The first of these to be attacked was a man who had been employed on a barge on the River Welland and apparently had drunk infected water. One other case occurred in the next door house and the third case in a house about 50 yards off. They were all mild.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—One case was reported in a child of four. It was mild, and very little paralysis remained.

Puerperal Fever.—Two cases occurred in July. They had no connection one with the other. Both were mild.

Phthisis, or Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—Twelve cases were notified. This is eleven fewer than the previous year. Several of the cases had acquired Phthisis whilst away, and had come into the District to their homes to be nursed. Four cases died who had not been notified. As the notification of Phthisis had been in force such a short time, it is possible that it is occasionally forgotten, and this discrepancy will probably diminish as time goes on.

The sanatorium accommodation provided in the County is insufficient. The Insurance Committee have taken over the Ransome Sanatorium near Mansfield, and accommodation is also provided in the Nottingham General Hospital, but patients frequently have to wait a long time before gaining admission, owing to the long waiting list, to their great detriment.

Of other forms of Tuberculosis, there were four cases notified, being two of the hip, one glandular, and one epididimitis.

Tuberculosis in Cattle.—Nine cases were notified and slaughtered. Of these, all were found to be infected.

Small-Pox.—The District has remained free from Small-pox.

Anthrax.—No case of Anthrax has been reported during the year.

Ophthalmia Noenatorum.—No cases reported.

The following Table C shows the incidence of and deaths from the three notifiable diseases, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever for the past ten years, and of Phthisis for the past three years. The death-rate from the three notifiable diseases is thus 7·2 per cent. of the deaths from all causes and ·09 per thousand of the total population.

TABLE C.

Year	Diphtheria and Memb. Croup.		Scarlet Fever		Enteric Fever		Pulmonary † Tuberculosis		Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Deaths All causes
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths			
1905	3	1	41	...	1	1	...	...	45	2	199
1906	1	1	18	1	1	...	...	...	20	2	201
1907	8	1	73	4	2	...	...	...	83	5	200
1908	8	2	58	3	2	...	...	...	68	5	174
1909	13	2	43	...	2	2	...	...	58	4	200
1910	6	1	53	2	1	1	...	...	60	4	198
1911	5	...	47	1	8	1	...	...	60	2	186
1912	11	1	23	...	4	...	13	8	51	9	165
1913	6	1	24	...	3	1	23	20	56	22	183
1914	10	...	30	1	3	...	12	13*	55	14	193
Average for 10 yrs	7·3	1	41	1·2	2·7	·6	...	...	55·6	6·9	189·9

† The incidence and deaths from Phthisis are not given for years previous to 1912, when it was first made generally notifiable.

* Four cases of Phthisis died during the year which had not been notified.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Information as to these cases comes to me mostly by means of School Teachers and School Attendance Officers. It is impossible to give any definite figures.

Influenza.—A good many cases occurred during the first three months of the year. It was particularly noticeable at Gringley, East Drayton, Grove and Scrooby.

Measles.—An outbreak of Measles occurred in Eaton in February, and at Babworth in March and April. Fifty-six children were notified as being away from school at Sutton in March owing to this cause. In April an outbreak occurred at Markham Clinton, and at Tuxford in May.

Whooping Cough.—This was prevalent at Markham Clinton and Milton in February and March. There were several cases at Hayton in May, and at East Markham and North Leverton in June and July. A small outbreak occurred in Treswell and district, and Rampton in August, also at North Wheatley. A large number of the Tuxford infants were affected in November.

Mumps.—A very few cases have been reported.

School closure was necessitated during the year as follows :—

School.	Date.	Cause.
Tuxford	January	Diphtheria.
Markham Clinton	March	Whooping Cough.
Grove	March	Measles.
Sutton	April	Measles.
Tuxford	April	Measles.
Babworth	April & May	Measles.
North Leverton	June & July	Measles.
Sutton	July	Scarlet Fever
Rampton Woodbeck	August	Whooping Cough.
Torworth	August	Diphtheria*
North Wheatley	September	Whooping Cough.
Hayton	September	Measles.
Mattersey	November	Whooping Cough.

* The case was found not to be Diphtheria, and the school reopened after a few days

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

It is necessary that I report on the working of this Act in the District. Section 32 of the Public Health Amendment Act is not in force in the District.

The chief places to be inspected under the Act in a District such as this, are smithies and carpenters' shops, dressmakers' and tailors' workrooms, and bakeries.

There is one factory employing about 40 hands engaged in the manufacture of iron shovels, forks, etc. There are no underground bakehouses and no licenses for such have been issued.

The workshops and workplaces as a rule are well kept and clean and sufficiently ventilated. They are not overcrowded.

The degree of cleanliness required by me varies. An open shoeing smith's shop naturally is not expected to be kept as clean as other workplaces in which a less smoky business is carried on.

There are no factory laundries or dye works.

Offensive Trades.—One blood and bone boiler exists in the District. The premises are kept well and are sufficiently removed from any habitation to avoid nuisance.

Outworkers.—None are employed in the District, and I have not been notified nor have I found any resident in the District but employed elsewhere.

There have been no prosecutions during the year.

Below is a tabular summary of the work done. In addition to the figures shown, it is my practice to call in at the workshops and workplaces in the District when I am in their neighbourhood. If all is satisfactory, no note is made of my visit; consequently, the work done is more than is apparent.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HANWAY R. BEALE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Bridgegate House,

Retford,

February, 1915.

TABLE I.

Rural District of East Retford. Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	14236	...	329	23·11	200	14·04	...	16	30	91·8	216	15·17
1910	14700	...	313	21·76	178	12·1	...	20	28	89·4	198	13·47
1911	14776	306	312	21·1	162	10·96	1	24	18	57·6	185	12·5
1912	14845	319	321	21·62	144	9·7	1	21	23	62·3	164	11·04
1913	15081	292	296	18·72	168	10·63	2	15	15	50·67	181	11·45
1914	15108	302	303	20·05	179	11·84	5	19	25	82·5	193	12·84

Total population at all ages, 14776. Total families or separate occupiers, 3446. Average number of Persons per house, 4·4. (At Census 1911).
Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 92740. Standard death rate 10·72.

TABLE II.
East Retford Rural District. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.					TOTAL CASES REMOV'D TO HOSPITAL.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years						1	2	3	4	5		
		Un-der 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65							65 & up-wards
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera (C) Plague (P)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	10	...	5	2	2	1	...	...	1	1	8	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	7	...	...	3	2	2	...	...	3	1	2	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	30	...	21	3	3	2	...	4	21	2	4	...	...	4
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever (R) ...	}	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever (C) ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	12	...	1	4	4	2	...	1	5	3	2	1	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	4	...	2	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Totals ...	69	3	30	14	15	7	...	7	31	7	23	1	4	4

No Isolation Hospital in the District.

TABLE III.

*East Retford Rural District.**Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the year 1914.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non- Residents in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes { Certified ..	188	24	11	1	7	5	19	39	82	...
{ Uncertified	5	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...
Enteric Fever ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Erysipelas ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary } Tuberculosis) }	13	...	1	...	1	3	5	3	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	16	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	9	...
Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease..	12	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	7	2
Bronchitis	18	3	2	...	...	1	...	1	11	...
Pneumonia, all forms ..	7	...	1	...	1	...	1	4	...	...
Other Diseases of Res- } piratory Organs }	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis & Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
Alcoholism ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's } Disease }	8	..	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	...
Puerperal Fever ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and } Diseases of Pregnancy }	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
and Parturition .. }										
Congenital Debility & } Malformation, includ- }	11	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ing Premature Birth }										
Violent Deaths, exclud- } ing Suicide .. }	6	...	1	...	1	1	1	2	...	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	44	5	2	...	2	...	5	12	18	1
Diseases ill-defined or } unknown .. }	36	3	1	...	...	...	...	1	31	2
Totals	193	25	11	1	7	6	19	40	84	5

TABLE IV.

*East Retford Rural District.**Infant Mortality.**1914. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year*

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All causes { Certified	9	1	..	2	12	2	4	3	3	24
Uncertified	1	..	1
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Whooping-cough
Diphtheria and Croup
Erysipelas
Tuberculous Meningitis
Abdominal Tuberculosis
Other Tuberculous diseases
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)
Convulsions	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Laryngitis
Bronchitis	1	1	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)
Diarrhoea	1	..	1	2
Enteritis	1	1
Gastritis	1	..	1
Syphilis	1	..	1
Rickets
Suffocation, overlying
Injury at Birth
Atelectasis
Congenital Malformations
Premature Birth	4	1	..	1	6	1	1	..	..	8
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	2	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	3
Other causes	2	..	..	1	3	1	..	..	..	4
Totals	9	1		2	12	2	4	4	3	25

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate .. 282
 { Illegitimate .. 21

Nett Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants .. 21
 { Illegitimate Infants .. 4

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspection 2	Written Notices 3	Prosecutions 4
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	7	...	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	35	...	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	12	...	...
TOTAL	54	...	...

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecu- tions 5
	Found 2	Remedied 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector 4	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	..	..
Want of ventilation	1	1	..	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Sanitary accommodation ..	insufficient .. .. .	..	..	..
	unsuitable or defective .. .. .	..	..	..
	not separate for sexes .. .. .	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	3	3	..	..

3.—*Home Work.*

None.

4.—*Registered Workshops.*

Workshops on the Register (s 131) at the end of the year. 1					Number 2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	13
Blacksmiths' Shops	...	...	...	...	15
Ironworks	...	...	...	...	4
Dressmakers and Tailors		...	...	...	10
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	18
Others	...	...	...	...	17
Total number of Workshops on Register					77

5.—*Other Matters.*

Class. 1					Number 2
<i>Matters notified to H. M. Inspector of Factories :—</i>					
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts					...
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901)					Notified by H.M. Inspector ... Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector
Other	...	...	...	...	...
<i>Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—</i>					
Certificates granted during the year					... ..
In use at the end of the year					... ..

**ANNUAL REPORT for 1914, by
THOMAS HENRY, Sanitary Surveyor and
Inspector of Nuisances.**

COMPLAINTS AND INSPECTIONS—

1	Number of Complaints received during the year ...	...	5
2	Number of Houses, Premises, &c., Inspected ...	...	205
3	Number of Re-inspections of Houses, Premises, &c.	...	1025

RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS—

Formal Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of
Houses and Premises :

4	For the Abatement of Nuisances ...	...	18	}	80
5	„ Provision of New Drains ...	...	24		
6	„ „ Privies and Ashpits ...	...	27		
7	„ „ Wholesome Water ...	...	11		
8	Houses, Premises, &c., Cleansed, Repaired, &c. ...	...	...	...	3
9	School Urinals Repaired and New Provided ...	...	...	...	2
10	Overcrowding Abated ...	...	...	...	3
11	Drains to Houses and Buildings : New, Provided...	...	...	...	55
12	„ „ Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c. ...	...	...	...	6
13	„ „ Ventilated ...	...	...	...	8
14	New Cesspools for House Drainage...	...	...	...	2
15	Old Cesspools Abolished ...	...	...	...	1
16	Water Closets : New, Provided ...	...	...	...	11
17	„ Abolished ...	...	...	...	0
18	Privies converted into Pan Closets ...	...	...	...	0
19	Pan Closets converted into Privies ...	...	...	...	0
20	Old Privies Abolished ...	...	...	...	11
21	Privies : New, Provided ...	...	...	...	45
22	„ Repaired ...	...	...	...	4
23	Ashpits or Ashbins : New, Provided ...	...	...	...	45
24	„ „ Repaired ...	...	...	...	1
25	Urinals to Public Houses Provided...	...	...	...	1
26	Waste Pipes connected with Drains, &c., Disconnected ...	...	...	...	2
27	Animals Removed, being improperly kept...	...	...	...	4
28	Pigsties adjoining Houses Abolished ...	...	...	...	3
29	„ Provided with Drains ...	...	...	...	8
30	Privies and Ashpits Emptied and Cleansed ...	...	...	...	20
31	Yards and Causeways Paved and Repaired ...	...	...	...	51

WATER SUPPLY—

32	Pumps and Wells : New, Provided...	...	...	...	8
33	„ „ „ Cleansed, Repaired, Covered, &c.	...	...	...	9
34	Water Certificates for New Houses Granted	...	...	...	5

LODGING HOUSES—

35	Number of Lodging Houses Registered under 35th Section of “ Public Health Act, 1875.”	1
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REMOVALS—

36	Removals of Accumulations of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse	6
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THE HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890-1909—

37	Houses Closed (voluntarily)...	1
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CANAL BOATS ACT, 1884—

38	Canal Boats Inspected	21
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LEGAL PROCEEDINGS—

39	Summonses	0
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The foregoing statistics barely represent the large amount of work actually carried out in many individual cases. To do so it would be necessary to give the lengths of drains laid, number of gullies, inspection chambers, &c. One drain might represent a cottage drain, or an elaborate system to one house, and premises. For instance, one farm premises recently drained, after notice, represents 300 yards of pipes, four inspection chambers, gullies, &c. In this case, among others, I took levels, and prepared a section, in order to make a satisfactory job.

During the year, I have written very many letters, and had personal interviews with a number of owners or owners' representatives, upon their various premises, in order to explain the Council's requirements. In the ordinary course of events, an interview (also on the premises) with a builder follows, generally for the preparation of an estimate for the work, and when the latter is settled, another interview for setting out

the work. These interviews have invariably resulted in the necessity of the sanitary improvements being appreciated, and the execution of the work has generally proceeded satisfactorily.

It will be noticed from the preceding schedule that the number of Public Health Act notices served for the provision of privies, ashpits and drains, show a diminution, as compared with some previous years. This is due to the fact that many inspections under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, have been made of houses, previously dealt with under the Public Health Act. During the 17 years I have held the office of Inspector of Nuisances, 814 privies, 884 ashpits, and 1083 drains to houses, have been constructed; and as combined privies and ashpits cost not less than £10 each, and drains average say £2 each, it will be seen that a sum of about £11,000 has been caused to be expended on this branch of private sanitary work by the District Council.

The combined privy and ashpit now approved, where constructed in accordance with the "particulars" annexed, is the most practical form of this convenience I have seen, and the least offensive, if properly treated, viz.: by covering the fæcal matter with ashes; but some occupiers, although given full instructions, seldom attain this standard, while in the case of pan closets (of which there are a number) they never do so, and it has in consequence, become a common place remark that "he who recommends a pan closet ought to have to empty it," though where a system of public scavenging is in operation, this observation does not apply.

No complaints have been made about the knacker's boiling house (mentioned in last year's report), which is some hundreds of yards away from any house or highway.

Houses Voluntarily Closed.—One house has been voluntarily closed, by the owner, in Hayton Parish, in preference to complying with the Council's required amendments.

Sustained and Unrecorded Inspections.—Many minor nuisances which entail an inspection are not recorded, and I frequently find that verbal notices are sufficient to ensure the emptying of privies and ashpits, and the removal of offensive accumulations. This may be described as 'sustained inspection,' of which there is no record.

Paved Causeways.—In several instances new paved causeways to houses, where none previously existed, have been provided through my advice, without formal notices.

VOLUNTARY SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

It is a frequent occurrence for owners to voluntarily undertake sanitary improvements to their cottages, which are also unrecorded, and my advice is sought, and freely given, for such a desirable object.

NEWCASTLE ESTATE.

The system of thoroughly repairing all the Duke of Newcastle's property (each Village is being taken in rotation), and referred to in my previous reports, is still being continued, (but with less progress than in the pre-war days) under the direction of the Estate Agent, Mr. A. E. Elliott. It is, in my opinion, a wise course, and a matter for congratulation, both to the Duke and the Council. If all the voluntary sanitary work, so effectively done on this estate, were tabulated, the figures of my return would be very largely increased, the sanitary work all being done under my supervision.

EATON HALL ESTATE.

The present owner (C. W. Kayser, Esq.) of this Estate has commenced a similar system in Eaton Village. Eaton Hall has been thoroughly re-drained and new sanitary conveniences provided. A small Outfall Works (the only one in the District) consisting of a Septic Tank and Filter Bed, treats the drainage from the Hall. New houses for working men employed upon the Estate are being built. The owner has instituted a scavenging system for the Village.

NEW HOUSES.

Owners of new houses are required, in accordance with the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, to obtain a certificate from the Rural District Council that the water supply is wholesome, and within a reasonable distance from the house. I therefore make it a practice to send to such owners, a leaflet containing extracts from the said Public Health (Water) Act, pointing out the owners' responsibility in this respect. I also see that a privy, ashpit, and drain are provided to each house, as required by the Public Health Act, 1875. Full "particulars," as per appended copies, are sent to building owners, as to the construction of these requirements, and the work is generally carried out as satisfactorily as if Bye-laws were in force. Similar particulars also accompany all notices served under section 23 of the Public Health Act. The system in vogue is now so well understood, that plans of new houses are generally submitted for my inspection.

(*Copy*).

PRIVATE DRAINS.

THE COUNCIL will regard as sufficient a drain constructed to comply with the following particulars :—

1. In all cases where a branch drain is required beneath a highway, such branch drain may be laid and connected to the main sewer by the Council, at the expense of the owner. No

works shall be commenced until the sanction of the Surveyor thereto has been obtained. Notice in writing should be given at the office of the Surveyor whenever any drain is completed, and no drain be filled in or covered until it has been inspected, tested, and approved by an authorised officer of the Council.

2. Defective drains must be made good or destroyed, contaminated soil removed, and the space filled in solid.

3. The pipes to be of the best quality glazed stoneware socketed pipes, jointed in cement.

4. No right angled junction is to be used in any drain.

5. Rain water pipes discharging into drains or sewers must discharge over trapped gullies.

6. All drains must be laid in straight lines.

7. Every drain should have properly constructed inspection chambers, one at or near the point where the drain leaves the premises, and others as may be necessary at the rear of the premises.

8. No drain is to be less than 4 inches in diameter, and the inclination not less than 1 in 40.

9. Each house must have a separate connection of its drains with the main system, or with a cesspool, unless the Council shall give its written consent to drains from two or more houses being joined in one such connection.

10. Stable, cowshed, and pigstye gullies to have arrangements for catching sediment.

11. Gullies at sink wastes, must be fixed, not less than 12 inches, from such sink waste outlet.

12. All drains laid within or under any building intended to be used as a dwelling house or workplace must be of best quality glazed socket-jointed stoneware pipes, laid on and surrounded with 6 inches of Portland cement (or cement of equal quality) concrete, or of cast iron socket-jointed pipes jointed with lead and properly caulked.

13. Where the ground is water-logged, the drains should be laid either with stoneware pipes with patent joints of approved pattern, or with cast iron pipes.

Nine inch gullies, with nine inch grates, must be provided to all drain inlets, unless otherwise specified.

(Copy).

PARTICULARS OF CONSTRUCTION IN RESPECT TO PRIVIES AND ASHPITS.

A privy and ashpit should be constructed at a distance of *twenty-four feet* at the least from any dwelling house or public building, or any building in which any person may be or may be intended to be employed in manufacture, trade or business.

A privy and ashpit should not be constructed within the distance of *sixty feet* from any well, spring, or stream of water used or likely to be used by man for drinking or domestic purposes, or for manufacturing drinks for the use of man, or otherwise in such a position as to render any such water liable to pollution.

Every privy and ashpit should be constructed in such a manner and in such a position as to afford ready means of access for the purpose of cleansing such privy and ashpit and of removing filth therefrom, and in such a manner and in such a position as to admit of all filth being removed from such privy and ashpit, and from the premises to which such privy and ashpit may belong, without being carried through a dwelling house or public building or any building in which any person may be or may be intended to be employed in any manufacture, trade or business.

The seat of a privy should be so constructed that the whole of such seat or a sufficient part thereof may be readily removed or adjusted so as to afford adequate means of removing the contents and of cleansing such receptacle. The seat may be either hinged or loose.

The ashpit shall be constructed immediately behind, and *not* beside, the privy seat, and shall not be less than *four feet* by *four feet* on plan.

Every privy and ashpit shall be properly roofed over and provided with a sufficient opening for constant ventilation, as near to the top as practicable, and communicating directly with the external air.

The floor of every privy and ashpit to be flagged or paved with hard tiles or other non-absorbent material, bedded and jointed in cement, and the riser or front under partially supporting the privy seat shall be constructed of one hard Yorkshire flagstone (*not* limestone), not less than *two and a half inches* thick, let in *three inches* at least below the level of the floor, bedded in cement at the base, and let into the walls at each side for not less than *two inches*; the whole extent of each side and back of the space between the floor and the level of the seat to be constructed of flagging, slate or good brickwork at least *nine inches* thick, built in cement, the internal face of such brickwork to be of blue Staffordshire bricks *four and a half inches* in thickness at the least; and the floor shall be in every part thereof at a height of not less than *six inches* above the level of the surface of the ground adjoining such privy; and such floor shall have a fall or inclination towards the door of such privy of *half an inch* to the *foot*.

A window of not less dimensions than *two feet* by *one foot*, exclusive of the frame, should be provided in one of the walls of the privy, and opening directly into the external air.

The ashpit should be furnished, at the side thereof, with a suitable door of not less superficial area than *five feet* by *two feet three inches*, the blue brick sill of such doorway to be not more than *twelve inches* above the adjacent surface of the ground, fixed in such a position and so constructed and fitted as to admit of the convenient removal of the contents of such ashpit, and to admit of being securely closed and fastened for the effectual prevention of the escape of any of the contents of such ashpit.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

No Building Bye-laws are in force in this District, and hence there are no restrictions upon the erection of new houses, (which have been hitherto satisfactorily constructed) beyond the provision of a wholesome water supply, and sanitary accommodation, as described above.

WATER SUPPLY.

Four new borehole wells have been sunk into the sandstone by owners during the year, upon private property.

Tuxford and East Markham Water Supply.—Under the powers secured by the District Council in the Lincoln Corporation Water Act of 1908, the scheme for supplying the Parishes of East Markham and Tuxford, designed by Mr. E. J. Silcock, M.I.C.E., of Leeds, has been completed.

The first connection was made on May 26th, 1913, at Tuxford, and since that date to December 31st, 1914, 136 houses and premises in East Markham Parish, and 225 ditto in Tuxford Parish have been supplied with water from the mains. This must be considered very satisfactory progress, and the Water Inspector (Mr. T. H. Good) deserves his share of credit. Since the war commenced, reluctant owners are more reluctant than before, to take advantage of this excellent water supply for their houses.

Chiefly, in my opinion, through the provision of a good public Water Supply, a building development has commenced at Tuxford where a number of railwaymen have purchased land from the Newcastle Estate and built thereon houses for their own occupation. Up to date, 7 such houses have been built.

Rampton Criminal Lunatic Asylum. Housing of Workmen.—No case of over-crowding has arisen from the work carried out here during this year. This establishment is self-contained, so far as regards water, drains and drainage disposal.

SEWER WORKS, &c.

During the year, the following Works have been executed, in accordance with the directions of the Sanitary Committee, by the Council's workmen, under my direction. The new pipes used are Glazed Stoneware Socketed Pipes, generally known as Sanitary pipes. This work is not an increasing quantity, being permanent; the pipes when laid do not wear out, like road metalling, so no renewals are necessary.

Finningley.—The sewage catchpits, and dykes have been emptied.

Grove.—An open sewage ditch (which adjoined the highway leading to Grove Village, created considerable nuisance, and caused complaints), has been piped, a septic tank constructed, and the effluent discharged into a ditch some distance from any highway. About 585 yards of 9 inch pipes were laid and the necessary manholes constructed.

In the Village, old 4 inch and 12 inch tile sewers became blocked. These were abolished. One hundred and eleven yards of 6 inch pipes and 50 yards of 9 inch pipes were laid, in lieu thereof.

Gringley-on-the-Hill.—One sanitary trapped roadside gully, and one ventilating shaft were fixed in the Village Street opposite Cross Hill.

Gamston.—The septic tank has been emptied and sewage ditch cleansed.

Laneham.—A manhole has been provided upon the old tile sewer, at the corner of Dunham Road.

Misson.—Twenty-two yards of 9 inch pipe sewer have been laid and one manhole constructed in the Village.

Normanton-on-Trent.—Two manholes have been constructed and the sewage ditch cleansed.

Ranskill.—The sewage catchpits near the Great North Road, the Church, and some houses, have caused many complaints, although they are emptied every week, but the catchpits fill up very quickly, and are quite inadequate. The cost of emptying alone, amounts to about £50 per year. The old sewers frequently become blocked, and clearing them is a recurring expense. These charges would be avoided if the scheme designed by Mr. E. J. Silcock, M.I.C.E., of Leeds, were carried out. The Local Government Board will hold Inquiry into this scheme, on March 3rd, 1915.

Sturton-le-Steeple.—One trapped road gulley has been fixed near Mr. W. Hird's. The 9 inch sewer in Freeman's Lane has been extended at the joint cost of the owner of two houses, and the Parish, to enable the houses to be drained into the sewer.

Scrooby.—One trapped road gulley has been fixed in the Village Street.

Tuxford.—About one hundred and forty yards of 9 inch sewer, with the necessary manholes have been laid in Bevercotes Lane, at the joint cost of the owner of some new houses and the Parish, to enable the houses to be drained into the Parish sewer.

In Eldon Street, an old tile sewer became blocked, it was taken up, and the 9 inch sewer continued from Ollerton Road as far as Mr. James Stone's premises. The drains from all the adjacent houses were disconnected from the old sewers, and connected to the new sewer. The old sewers thus revert to the Notts. County Council for surface water purposes.

In consequence of the 9 inch sewer in Mr. Jamson's field being occasionally blocked with road silt (this sewer receiving surface water from the Great North Road), a catchpit has been constructed in the above field, on the line of sewer, to intercept road detritus. In the Lincoln Road, some land belonging to the Newcastle Estate has been developed for building purposes and seven new houses, each occupied by its owner, have been built. In order to enable the owners to make full use of the water supply for sanitary purposes, and to avoid increasing the number of pan closets or privies, in this Parish, a sewer was provided at the joint cost of the various owners and the Parish. Five hundred and eighty five yards of 9 inch pipes with the necessary manholes have been laid and built; the work was done by the Council's men.

Tuxford Beck receives the largest portion of the sewage of the Parish, and it has been necessary to cleanse a long length of this stream, the condition of which caused complaints. All sewage catchpits are regularly emptied.

TUXFORD SCAVENGING.

This work has been carried out by Mr. R. Archer, in a satisfactory manner.

The number of pans to be emptied increases, owing to the abolition of defective privies, as owners find the provision of pans cheaper than introducing water closets. Only two conversions from pans to w.c.'s have been made during this year.

TUXFORD COUNCIL SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conveniences are pans, and as those on the girls' side filled rapidly, a water closet pan was fixed to form a latrine for the girls, and it has answered very satisfactorily.

SEWERS, SEWAGE DITCHES, & CESSPOOLS

In the new sewers, flushing is effected by valves during rain, and holding back. The old sewers are flushed with a flushing water cart. Several cases of blocked sewers have been effectively dealt with, by the aid of the drain rods, which have also been lent to various ratepayers, to cleanse their drains. This is appreciated.

There are sewage ditches in every Parish, and catchpits in most, and they have been regularly and thoroughly cleansed, and where necessary, deodorised, throughout the district. Many of these ditches have very flat gradients, such as Sutton, Lound, Mattersey, Finningley, Rampton, Marnham, etc., and entail frequent cleansing for considerable distances. The sewage tanks constructed in Everton, Clayworth, and Tuxford have proved beneficial.

DISINFECTION.

All houses have been disinfected, under my direction, after infectious diseases, including Tuberculosis.

COMMITTEES.

During the year Sub-Committees to consider proposed sewer extensions, and difficult cases of suggested sanitary improvements on private property, have made inspections in various Parishes.

THOMAS HENRY,

Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

Retford,

February, 1915.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &c., ACT, 1909.

REPORT by THOMAS HENRY, Designated Officer.

1	Number of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	210
2	Number which on inspection were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	4
3	Number of Representations made to Local Authority with a view to making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	4
4	Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	0
5	Number of Houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	120
6	Number of Houses which after making of Closing Orders were put in a fit state for human habitation	...	...	...	...	0
7	Number of Houses closed voluntarily without the making of a Closing Order	...	...	...	...	1
8	Formal Notices served	...	...	...	...	51
9	Remedies suggested in ditto	...	...	...	...	255

The general character of the defects found and dealt with consist of: insufficient light and ventilation to rooms and food stores, leaky roofs, insufficient and defective eaves gutters to houses and outbuildings, defective stairs and floors, stairs and step ladders to bedrooms without handrails, broken fire grates and stoves, a few dirty houses, defective yard and causeway paving, absence of food stores, untrapped sink wastes, &c.

During the year amendments to 120 houses have been executed as follows :—

1	Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	...	117
2	New Windows	...	...	...	...	...	128
3	Eaves Gutters provided	...	...	...	...	...	86
4	Yards and Causeways paved	...	...	...	...	...	57
5	New Floors and Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	44
6	Ventilators to provide "through" ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	10
7	New Fire Grates and ditto repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
8	Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	63
9	Stairs repaired and Handrails provided	...	...	...	...	...	50
10	Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
11	Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	22
12	Handrails to Stairs provided	...	...	...	...	...	50
13	Skylights to Back Bedrooms provided	...	...	...	...	...	16
14	New Doors	...	...	...	...	...	14
15	Damp courses inserted	...	...	...	...	...	3

House Rents.—These vary considerably, as the following particulars of 554 houses shew :—

1	From 1/- to 1/6 per week	...	...	...	...	75
2	,, 1/7 ,, 2/- ,,	...	...	...	...	192
3	,, 2/1 ,, 2/6 ,,	...	...	...	...	67
4	,, 2/7 ,, 3/- ,,	...	...	...	...	56
5	,, 3/1 ,, 4/- ,,	...	...	...	...	37
6	,, 4/1 and above,,	...	...	...	...	36
7	Rent included in Wages	...	...	...	...	41
8	Rent included in Farm Rent	...	...	...	...	23
9	Owned by Occupier	...	...	...	...	27

554

The closet accommodation, ashpits, drains, and water supply are dealt with under the Public Health Act and Public Health (Water) Act, and a very large amount of this work has been done in previous years ; see page 39.

One house has been voluntarily closed by the owner after the service of notices requiring certain amendments to the houses.

A number of informal notices have been served relating to houses belonging to various owners. Although informal notices with some owners, are usually so much waste paper.

Owners of property in this district, having had, during my term of office as Inspector, experience of the enforcement of the requirements of the Public Health Act, hardly appreciate the "greater detail" of the requirements of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, but it is being better understood, although many owners are very slow in executing the repairs ordered. Generally, rents are increased by the smaller owners in consequence of the enforced expenditure, and there are tenants who resent any improvement to their houses for this reason, being quite satisfied with their environments, at the risk of larger rents. Several tenants were given notice to quit, immediately after my inspection of their houses, and some occupiers have begged me not to serve notices, owing to the probability of having to vacate their houses, or the rents being raised.

In the case of a row of four houses in one Parish, upon which not more than £40 was spent in repairs, the rents were each raised from 2/- to 2/6 per week, the increase producing ample interest upon the expenditure incurred.

In another case of a farm house, where the outlay was about £40, the rent was raised £10 per year.

Some occupiers have expressed their appreciation of the "through" ventilation provided in their bedrooms, by means of "hit and miss," or other ventilators, but many others consider such an innovation as unnecessary, and say, there are enough draughts in their houses already. In most cottages, the living room doors open directly into the air, and they are generally left open, in the daytime.

In this District there are a large number of small houses, containing a living room, small back kitchen, with one and a half rooms over, and are let at from 1/- to 1/6 each per week.

Since the introduction of the Housing Act, many of these houses have been the subject of repairs and improvements, but in most cases, the expenses of any alterations were not welcomed by the occupier. I have found, that although windows have been made to open, they are never opened, and ventilators inserted in outside walls opposite to the windows, for through ventilation in bedrooms without fireplaces, have been deliberately papered over.

Under such circumstances, it does seem hard upon owners to have to spend money, which many of them can ill afford, with the above results.

There are a number of elderly owners, who are life tenants only, and entirely dependent upon the rents of their cottages. Any capital expenditure, hits these owners very hardly, and much difficulty arises in securing compliance with the Council's requirements in these cases.

Some owners reposed sufficient confidence in the Council, to request me to carry out the repairs for them, at their cost, which has been done. In two cases, advantage has been taken of the five year period for payment, the amount being over £100 in each case.

THOMAS HENRY,

February, 1915.

Designated Officer.

